

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Paragraph beginning at line 15 of page 1 has been amended as follows:

A conventional thermal printer is structured such that: that a thermal head is fixed to a head support body that also serves as a heat radiating plate; the head support body is rotatably supported with a shaft by means of a frame or the like of the printer; and further, the head support body is biased by a spring or the like to be pressed against a platen roller side (for example, refer to JP 04-140175 A).

Paragraph beginning at line 8 of page 3 has been amended as follows:

According to the present invention, in order to achieve the above object, in a thermal printer in which printing is performed while paper is sandwiched between a thermal head having a heating element and a platen roller, the thermal printer is provided ~~with~~ with a head support body to which the thermal head is fixed; a first frame that movably holds the head support body; biasing means that is formed between the head support body and the first frame and generates a pressing force between the thermal head and the platen roller; and a second frame that holds the first frame and the platen roller, ~~and~~ wherein the thermal head, the head

support body, and the biasing means are detachably attachable as a unit to the second frame in the state of being assembled with the first frame.

Paragraph beginning at line 21 of page 4 has been amended as follows:

It is preferable ~~that:~~ that the second frame is provided with a receiving groove for holding a rotating shaft of the platen roller; and the first frame has a hook portion that is hooked around a component held in the receiving groove, and also serves as lock means that locks the platen roller to prevent it from being released from the receiving groove.

Paragraph beginning at line 1 of page 8 has been amended as follows:

Hereinafter, an embodiment of the present invention will be described based on the accompanying drawings.

Paragraph beginning at line 24 of page 8 has been amended as follows:

As shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2A, the printing mechanism 10 is constituted by the thermal head 13 in which a dot row 13A (refer to Fig. 4A) comprised of heating elements is formed on a substrate, the platen roller 12 which makes

paper pressed against the portion of the heating elements in the thermal head 13 and which performs paper feeding through its rotation drive, a head support body 15 which supports the thermal head 13 and which exerts head radiation action to the thermal head 13, a lock or inner frame 16 as a first frame which rotatably holds the head support body 15, springs ~~14,~~ 14 as biasing means which are provided between the head support body 15 and a rear portion of the lock frame 16 and which bias both the members so as to repel each other, an outer frame 18 that holds all the above components, a shaft (support shaft) 17 that is passed through bearings respectively formed in the head support body 15, the lock frame 16, and the outer frame 18 to rotatably support the respective components, and the like.

Paragraph beginning at line 25 of page 9 has been amended as follows:

Then, a carrying handle 16B in the rear portion of the lock frame 16 is pushed toward the ~~spring~~ springs 14, whereby the lock or inner frame 16 is rotated about the shaft 17. Thus, the hook portions 16a, 16a are separated from the bearing members 12D, which makes the platen roller 12 detachably attachable.

Paragraph beginning at line 5 of page 10 has been amended as follows:

The printing mechanism in this embodiment is structured such that, after the platen roller 12 is removed, the lock or inner frame 16 can be removed from the outer frame 18 without disassembling the thermal head 13, the springs 14, the head support body 15, and the shaft 17. That is, the lock or inner frame 16 together with the thermal head 13, the springs 14, the head support body 15 and the shaft 17 can be detached as an assembled unit from the outer frame 18. Hereinafter, the structure of the above members will be described in detail.

Paragraph beginning at line 5 of page 12 has been amended as follows:

As shown in ~~Fig.~~ Figs. 6C and 7, the two stop grooves 17A to which the fittings 19 are fastened are provided with an interval therebetween a little narrower than the interval between the right and left side wall portions of the head support body 15. Therefore, the shaft 17 can be slid horizontally while the fittings 19 are fastened. Further, the left stop groove 17A is set at a position, where a right end of the shaft 17 does not fall out from the right bearing hole 16D of the lock or inner frame 16 and a tip end thereof somewhat enters the bearing hole 16D, in the case where the

shaft 17 is slid farthest to the left. Further, the right stop groove 17A is set at a position, where both the right and left ends of the shaft are projected from both side surfaces of the lock frame 16 by a predetermined width, in the case where the shaft 17 is slid farthest to the right.

Paragraph beginning at line 24 of page 13 has been amended as follows:

In order that the lock frame 16, with which the thermal head 13, the ~~spring~~ springs 14, and the head support body 15 are assembled, is removed from the printing mechanism 10 assembled as described above, first, the platen roller 12 is removed by moving the carrying handle 16b of the lock frame 16, and thereafter, the fixture 6 is removed by loosening the screw 6A (Fig. 1). Then, the shaft 17 is made slidable. Therefore, the shaft 17 is slid leftward as shown in Fig. 4A and Fig. 5.